briefed the Indian leadership on his approach to the peace process to achieve maximum devolution which preserves the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. The two sides agreed that an enduring solution can emerge only through internal political processes that promote consensus and reconciliation. India reiterated its support for a process of seeking a negotiated political settlement acceptable to all sections of Sri Lankan society within the framework of an undivided Sri Lanka and consistent with democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights.

Both countries also expressed satisfaction at the dynamism of the bilateral economic relationship. The two sides agreed that there was substantial potential for cooperation in the areas of agriculture, information technology and renewable energy. It was also agreed that bilateral cooperation would be accelerated in the field of human resource development. The two sides also discussed proposals for extension of technical and financial assistance by India in developmental projects in the North and East of Sri Lanka as also in several other sectors including health, railways, power etc.

Visit of French President

1808. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of France visited India, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the bilateral and multilateral issues that figured in his talks with Indian leaders;

(d) the outcome of the talks;

(e) whether any agreement was signed during the visit; and

(f) if so, the salient features of each agreements and the benefits to be accrued to the country as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The President of France, Mr. Jacques CHIRAC visited India from February 19-21, 2006. He was accompanied by Mr. Philippe Douste-BLAZY Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mme. Michele ALLIOT, Minister of Defence; Mr. Thierry BRETON;

Minister of Economy, Finance & Industry and Mme. Christine LAGARDE, Minister of State for Foreign Trade and around 25 senior CEOs of leading French companies.

(c) and (d) The discussions held on the occasion covered a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation including economic and commercial links, cooperation in the fields of defence, civil nuclear energy, space, civil aviation and energy. Multilateral issues relating to UN Reforms and financing of development were also discussed. This would promote greater cooperation between India and France in the areas of there mutual interest.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Several Agreement and MoU reflecting the diverse range of Indo-French collaboration were signed during the visit.

These include an Agreement on defence cooperation and an MoU on Tourism cooperation. The agreement on defence cooperation would promote cooperation in defence and military fields, defence industry, production, research and development and procurement of defence material.

The MoU on tourism cooperation aims to facilitate growth to tourist arrivals, promote human resource development in tourism and travel related industries and the development of sustainable tourism.

An agreement was signed by ANTRIX (the commercial arms of ISRO) with EADS Astrium to jointly build a satellite for Eutelsat. This is an acknowledgement of Antrix's technological and export capabilities and should help its growth and development further.

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad signed an MoA with the ESSEC Business School Paris. This would reinforce their existing partnership and extend it to other activities through exchange of students and research & faculty collaboration.

A Declaration of Cooperation was signed between BEE (Bureau of Energy Efficiency), Ministry of Power and ADEME (the Environment & Energy Management Agency of France) for cooperation in the field of energy efficiency and energy conservation. The Cooperation is intended to foster energy efficiency in the country, including lower energy costs for the consumers.

An agreement between Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Sciences Po, Paris was signed to establish an Indian Economy Chair

at Sciences Po. The Indian Economy chair would help in generating greater awareness about the contemporary Indian economy among French students at the prestigious Sciences Po institution.

Besides the above, a Declaration on the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purpose was signed. The Declaration would facilitate future cooperation with France in the field of civil nuclear energy.

A Statement of Intent on Cooperation between Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India and Ministry of Economy, Finance & Industry of the French Republic on Cooperation between Enterprises was also signed. Under the Statement of Intent both countries have agreed to strengthen and promote bilateral cooperation in the areas of industry, trade, science, technology, finance and investment between Indian and French enterprises, particularly SMEs.

A purchase contract for 43 Airbus aircraft was signed by Indian Airlines and Airbus.

Commission on Netaji's whereabouts

1809. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the NC Mukherjee, the third Commission set up to find out Netaji's whereabouts, has submitted its report, recently;

(b) if so, the revelations made by the Commission in its report;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Indian Embassy in Russia was not cooperating to the Mukherjee Commission; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry has submitted its report on 8th November 2005. As per the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952, the report will be tabled in both the Houses of Parliament in the current session.

(c) The Embassy of India in Moscow, on the basis of instructions from the Ministry of External Affairs, provided maximum possible support to the Hon'ble commission during their visit to Russia in September, 2005. The Mission, with the help of the Russian Foreign Ministry, arranged